

### REMARKS

In the Office Action, a restriction was made requiring election of one of the following inventions:

I. claims 1-20, drawn to a flexible shaft with a moisture sensor;

II. claims 21-27, drawn to a sleeve with an arrangement for retaining shape;

III. claims 28 and 29, drawn to a flexible shaft formed from autoclavable material;

and

IV. claims 30-35 drawn to a coupling mechanism.

In addition, a restriction was made requiring an election between the following allegedly patentably distinct species:

A. a coupling mechanism comprised of an engagement shaft and a clip (claims 30 and 32);

B. a coupling mechanism comprised of a shaft with elongated slits and a clip (claim 31);

C. a coupling mechanism comprised of a housing, a rotatable drive shaft, a magnet and a Hall sensor (claims 33 and 34); and

D. a coupling mechanism comprised of a housing, a rotatable drive shaft and a moisture sensor (claim 35).

As an initial matter, originally-filed claims 20-33 have been amended so as to correct the numbering thereof. There are currently 36 claims in this application as correctly numbered.

Accordingly, Applicant hereby elects, without traverse, the invention designated by the examiner as Invention I, i.e., claims 1-20 (now correctly numbered as claims 1-21). Thus, Applicants have withdrawn herein without prejudice correctly numbered claims 22-36.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

**FEES**

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

Thomas C. Hughes  
(Reg. No. 42,674)

KENYON & KENYON

One Broadway  
New York, New York 10004  
(212) 425-7200

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